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BOROUGH of GODMANCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALH INSPECTOR

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS of the DISTRICT DURING YEAR 1959

TO THE

GODMANCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 31st December, 1959.

No major change has occured in the general health of the citizens of the Borough during the year.

Although the Birth Rate shows a considerable fall this year as compared with last year's record the rate is still above the figure for the Country as a whole.

Similarly although the Death Rate shows an upward trend compared with 1958 it still remains well below the average for all England and Wales.

Despite the fact that no outbreak of Infectious Diseases took place in the Borough, some increase in the number of notifica -tions is noted - the increase itself being due mainly to a high incidence of measles and whooping cough.

The year saw the Official opening of the Sewerage Disposal Works at Cow Lane. There are a few properties in Borough still not connected to the new sewerage system and it is hoped that the necessary connection will be made soon.

A wholesome supply of water was maintained during the year but some difficulties were experienced during the very dry summer months due to increased consumption.

Four new Council dwellings were completed during the year and these were used for Slum Clearance purposes and a start was made on a further eight dwellings. Eight private dwellings were completed during the year and planning approval was obtained for a site for private development of 100 houses.

In conclusions, I would like to thank all Members of the Council for their kindness during the past year, and all Officers for their kind help and consideration.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J.Caldwell.

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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

J.Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P & S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

C.W.Parcell, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

THE STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	4,956 acres
Estimated Population (Mid 1958)	2,580
Estimated Population (Mid 1959)	2,680
Number of inhabited houses (per end of 1959 Rate Book)	811
Rateable Value	24,924
Value of Penny Rate	£98:6:8

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	Total
Legitimate	22	23	45
Illegitimate	1	3	4
	23	26	49

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	18.3.
Comparability Factor	1,02.
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	18.6.
(Ditto England and Wales)	16.5.

Still Births	M	F	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	-	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	20.0.
(Ditto for England and Wales)	20.7.

Deaths	M	F	Total
All ages	10	11	21

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	7.8.
Comparability Factor	.93.
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	7.3.
(Ditto for England and Wales)	11.6.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	M	F	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	1	-	1

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births	20.4.
(Ditto for England and Wales	22.0.
Legimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	Nil
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	250.0.

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	1	-	1

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14.	Other mailgnant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	-
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina	-	4
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	-	2
21.	Other circulatory disease	-	-
22.	Influenza	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	1	-
24.	Bronchitis	1	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26.	Ulcerof stomach and duodenum	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
34.	All other accidents	-	-
35.	Suicide	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	Total all cuases	10	11

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	TOTAL Notified cases
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	13
Diphtheria	-
Measles	48
Acute Pneumonia	14
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Tyhoid Fever	-
Erysipelas	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Infective Hepatitis	2
Dysentery	-
	81

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register on 31st December, 1959 ... 15

Pulmonary ... 12. Non-Pulmonary .. 3

	New Cases - Diagnosed				New Cases - Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0.....								
1.....								
5.....								
10.....	1							
15.....					1			
20.....		1						
25.....								
35.....						1		
45.....								
55.....		1	1					
65 and upwards								
Total	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	-

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratory Facilities have been available to the Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service Tennis Court Road, Cambridge Tel. Cambridge 55526

Public Analyst S.Greenburgh Ph.D., F.Sc., F.I.C. Tennison Road, Cambridge, Tel Cambridge 2097

(b) Ambulance Services

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel. Huntingdon 348)

(c) Home Nursing

A Nurse/Midwife residing in Godmanchester (Tel. Huntingdon 609) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carries out Home Nursing and attends Maternity cases in the Borough.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services provided by the Huntingdon County Council were available:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When Held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	Every Monday 9.30 - 10.30.a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Infant Welfare	Children (0 - 5years)	Every Tuesday 2 - 4 p.m.	ditto
Dental	Pre-school and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing mothers	Every Tuesday and Thursday - 9.a.m. - 12 noon 1.30.p.m. - 4.30.p.m. Every Saturday 9.a.m. - 12 noon.	10a, Princess Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When Held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Veneral Diseases	All ages	Mondays 3 - 7.p.m. Wednesdays 4 - 6.30.p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males	Mondays 5.30 - 7.p.m. Wednesdays 5.30 -7.p.m.	Out-patient Department.
	Females	Tuesdays 10.30 - 12 noon. Thursdays 10.30 -7.p.m.	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Clinic	Patients seen	When Held	Where held
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and Schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10.a.m. - 12 noon (Surgeons by appointment)	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When Held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and Schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (be appointment except in emergency) 10.30.a.m. - 12 noon 2-3.p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services

Fever - Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals, at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services - are provided by the County Hospital Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases - Maternity facilities are provided at Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and at Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

The Cambridge Street - St Anns Lane Clearance Area No.3. Clearance Order has been confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. There are now only two houses in this area remaining to be cleared.

Negotiations proceeded in an effort to purchase properties in and adjacent to the Pipers Lane - Earning Street Clearance Area No.2. The negotiations have been satisfactorily completed for the purchase of five houses and certain land adjacent, but a Compulsory Purchase Order has been made in respect of other property in this area.

Six cases of rehousing from unfit properties have been dealt with and five houses demolished.

Council Housing

The remaining four flats of the Cambridge Road 3rd Stage Development were completed, work on a further eight has been commenced as an extension of this scheme. Near the end of the year work also commenced on a 4th Stage consisting of 20 three bedroomed houses.

The Council's Housing List was re-opened after having been closed for a period of 12 months.

Private Housing

Eight private houses have been completed and a further two are under construction. Planning permission has been given for the development of Tudor Farm for residential use and a start has been made on its site works including the provision of the Council's second access road to the Cambridge Road Site via White Hart Lane.

Improvement Grants

Applications for both discretionary and standard grants have been received and a number of improvements completed.

Work commenced on the improvement and modernisation of the Council's fifty houses at Cambridge Villas.

WATER SUPPLY

The daily consumption of water per head gradually increased due to the various improvements and modernisation of dwellings which have taken place. An accurate consumption figure has not been obtained owing to defects in the main water meter and to the effect of some bad bursts.

Samples taken during the year were satisfactory except for a repetition of the series of unsatisfactory samples from the Outlying Farms Scheme due to prolonged storage. The Consultant Engineers advised against reduction of the amount stored as the supply would be useless for fire fighting purposes if reduction to less than the 5,000 gallon capacity of the tower. The tower and mains were flushed our periodically to remedy this trouble.

All samples taken were sent to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory and the following results obtained:-

Town Supply	17 samples taken.....	17 satisfactory
Outlying Farms	18 samples taken.....	12 satisfactory

SEWER AND SEWERAGE PISPOSAL

The Sewerage Disposal works at Cow Lane is in full operation and there are few premises without water closets. These are mostly in Pipers Lane - St Anns Lane and New Street which did not have new sewers in the recent scheme. A scheme for the provision of new sewers in these areas is still under consideration.

A bi-weekly collection of night soil continues from those premises requiring this service. During the year the system of disposal on the London Road tip ceased and disposal is now by way of flushing into the new sewer.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection of household refuse has continued to be made weekly. The tractor and trailer has been manned by two men with occassional help. The same vehicle and men have been used to control the tip. Tipping has taken placed on both the London Road and Cambridge Road Tips.

During the very wet weather at the end of the year difficulty was experienced in controlling the Cambridge Road tip and arrangements were made with a contractor to bulldoze covering material over both tips.

There has been no trouble from fires on the tips since tipping restarted at Cambridge Road tip.

The rodent operator has carried out regular inspections and treatments of both tips.

STREET CLEANING

Two employees have swept the County and Borough roads and gully cleaning has been carried out by Council employees using the tumbril cart and scoops. Owing to the long dry seasons complaints of dust and of smells from dried out gullies were more prevalent than usual. Also due, no doubt, to the dry season less weed troubles were experienced than usual.

RIVER

A considerable amount of river bathing took place but the bathing station remained closed, In spite of the abnormally low river flows no report of any case of disease attributable to bathing in the river has been received.

The river banks on the Recreation Ground were treated with weed killer and cut several times. This helped reduce the plagues of insects usually present.

Early in the year the river rose to a very high level (the highest since 1947) The lower level reached a height of 31' 4" A.O.D on 23rd January. The normal river level is 26' 0". The river bank was reinforced with sand bags at the rear of Tall Trees.

No dwelling houses were flooded but the Boathouse Meadow caravan site was flooded and some persons given other accommodation.

The pumps in the Avenue Pumping Station were cut and controlled periodically by hand as the river water was entering the part of the sewerage system served by these pumps. These steps were taken for four days.

CARAVAN SITE

The total number of caravans in the district has varied very little. The number of caravans on the riverside site has gone down but a new site for 22 caravans has been laid out in London Street. This site has a toilet block and standpipes over gullies are provided for each individual standing. The small number of individual licenced caravans remain constant.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

The slaughtering of pigs at the only slautherhouse in the Borough became very intermittent and towards the end of the year no slaughtering was taking place at all.

Six supplementary licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and eight premises remained registered for the sale of ice-cream.

More work has been carried out on the inspection of food premises than in the past but owing to the pressure of other work the time spent on these matters has still been insufficient. Five ice-cream samples and one sample of pasteurised milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratories for testing. The reports on all samples were satisfactory.

GENERAL

Although I have increased the proportion of my time spent on the Public Health duties set out be statute I have not been able to carry out all those duties as fully as I would like owing to the pressure of other duties. I have continued to concentrate my efforts on those mattersthat I consider most essential.

C.W.Parcell.,

Public Health Inspector

Rent Act, 1957

(a)	Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	0
(b)	Decisions to issue Certificates of Disrepair	0
(c)	Undertaking accepted from Landlord under Paragraph 5 of 1st Schedule	0
(d)	Number of Certificatesissued	0

Water Act, 1945

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year	144
(b)	Number of notices served during the year	Nil
	1. Informal	12
	2. Statutory	Nil
	Result of such notices	
	1. Informal notices complied with	12
	2. Statutory notices complied with	Nil

Food & Drugs Acts and Food Hygiene Regulations

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year	62
(b)	Action taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations ...	Nil

Factories Acts, 1937 - 1949

(a) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ... ...

Number on Register	5
Inspections	5
Notices	Nil
Complied with	Nil

(b) Factories not include in (a) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority

Number on Register	5
Inspections	5
Notices	Nil
Complied with	Nil

(c) Number of out-workers in August List required by Section 110 (1) (c) 2

Number of cases of default in sending in List ...	Nil
Number of instances of work unwholesome premises ...	Nil

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

No. of properties inspected as a result of notifications	13
No. of properties inspected survey under Act.	10
No. of properties inspected primarily for other purposes	600 approx
No. of properties inspected infested with rats ...	13
No. of properties inspected infested with mice ...	3
No. of properties treated by Local Authority	16
No. of inspections carried out on other duties not of a Public Health Nature	810

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Act, 1936

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year including re-inspections	529
(b)	Number of notices served during the year.	
	1. Informal	50
	2. Statutory	Nil
	Results of such notices	
	1. Informal notices complied with	50
	2. Statutory notices complied with	Nil

Housing Acts, 1936 - 1958

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year (other than for Improvement Grants etc)	504
(b)	Number of notices served during the year	
	1. Informal	10
	2. Statutory	Nil
	Result of such notices	
	1. Informal notices complied with	10
	2. Statutory notices complied with	4
(c)	Houses in Clearance Areas	
	1. Families rehoused	4
	2. Houses demolished	3
(d)	Individual unfit houses	
	1. Families rehoused	1
	2. Houses demolished	2
	3. Houses closed	1
(e)	Improvement Grants	
	1. Number of inspections made in connection with improvement of properties ...	140
	2. Number of applications received for Discretionary Grants	8
	3. Number of applications approved	8
	4. Number of applications not approved	Nil
	5. Number of properties improved (work completed) ...	13
	6. Number of applications received for Standard Grant	2
	7. Number of applications approved	2
	8. Number of properties improved (work completed) ...	Nil